

California School News Weekly Update

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# California schoolnews

weekly update



November 12, 2014

## Upcoming Events

**CSBA Annual Education  
Conference and Trade Show**  
Dec. 14-16 - San Francisco

**Board Presidents Workshop**  
Dec. 13 - San Francisco  
Jan. 24 - Sacramento  
Mar. 14 - San Diego

**Institute for New and First-Term  
Board Members**  
Jan. 23-24 - Sacramento  
Jan. 30-31 - Anaheim  
Feb. 6-7 - Burlingame  
Mar. 6-7 - Fresno  
Mar. 13-14 - San Diego  
April 17-18 - Redding

**The Brown Act**  
Jan. 23 - Sacramento  
Jan. 30 - Anaheim  
Feb. 6 - Burlingame  
Mar. 6 - Fresno  
Mar. 13 - San Diego

**MIG Course 1: Foundations of  
Effective Governance/Setting  
Direction**  
Feb. 6 - Burlingame  
Feb. 21 - Rancho Cucamonga  
Mar. 13 - San Diego

**MIG Course 2: Student  
Learning/Policy**  
Feb. 7 - Burlingame  
March 14 - San Diego  
March 21 - San Bernardino

**MIG Course 3: School Finance**  
Feb. 6 - Burlingame

*Correction: The article "Victory for Torlakson," in the CSN Weekly Update of Nov. 5, contained some incorrect election results numbers and incorrectly stated that Democrats could have a supermajority in the state Senate by early summer of 2015. The correct numbers are: 52 Democrats and 28 Republicans in the state Assembly and 25 Democrats and 14 Republicans in the state Senate. The numbers have been updated in the [online version](#) of the article.*

## News

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### **Parcel taxes, local school bonds fare well in Nov. 4 general election** *Shuffling of state senators means special elections in 2015*

CSBA's colleagues at [School Services of California](#) have prepared a summary of school bond results showing that 89 out of 113 school bond measures passed on Nov. 4, 2014, representing \$9.3 billion out of \$11.6 billion on ballots throughout the state. In addition, eight parcel taxes were put forward and approved by voters. This includes an innovative [parcel tax for Oakland Unified School District](#), which will go to support high school college and career readiness programs. Elsewhere in election results, with three state senators leaving for Congress before their legislative terms are completed, we can expect special elections in 2015 to fill those seats: Senator Mark DeSaulnier of the East Bay area (SD 7); Senator Steve Knight of Antelope Valley (SD 21); and Senator Mimi Walters of Orange County (SD 37). The election merry-go-round may continue if sitting Assembly Members are elected to any of these seats.

### **Watch live stream of SBE's Nov. 13-14 board meeting** *SBE likely to adopt final LCFF spending regulations and LCAP template*

In a move that should provide clarity for districts and county offices of education as they head into the next round of LCAP preparations and updates, the California Department of Education is recommending adoption of the [proposed LCFF spending requirements](#) (California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Sections 15494-15497.5) and LCAP template. The State Board of Education is scheduled to hear, and is

[March 13 - San Diego](#)

[April 18 - Rancho Cucamonga](#)

#### **MIG Course 4: Human**

##### **Resources/Collective Bargaining**

[Feb. 7 - Burlingame](#)

[March 14 - San Diego](#)

#### **MIG Course 5: Community**

##### **Relations & Advocacy/Gov.**

##### **Integration**

[Feb. 7 - Burlingame](#)

[March 14 - San Diego](#)

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expected to approve, this recommendation in agenda item 14 on Friday, day two of the Nov. 13-14 board meeting in Sacramento. Also on Friday, the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association will provide an update on the approval of district LCAPS and will discuss the resources and technical assistance they plan to provide local educational agencies in 2014-15. [View the CCSESA presentation.](#) Items to be discussed tomorrow, Nov. 13, include the new California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress System, an update of the History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools, and the English-language proficiency assessments and their alignment with the state-adopted English Language Development Standards. The full [SBE agenda](#) includes 23 items. The meeting will [stream live](#) and be [archived](#) for viewing three to five days after the meeting.

### **California Forward releases video on LCFF Collaborative Working Group**

*First meeting includes discussion of best practices, challenges and opportunities*

The LCFF Collaborative Working Group, dedicated to advancing implementation of California's new school funding formula, met for the first time Oct. 29 at CSBA's offices in West Sacramento. Developed by CSBA and California Forward, the coalition brings together school districts from across the state to strategize on best practices and suggest improvements to the LCFF. Anticipated outcomes of the Collaborative include developing useful research, reports and tools, with the goal of sharing the lessons learned and improving the process. The work of the Collaborative will also be incorporated in CSBA's trainings and education programs, and will inform advocacy efforts related to LCFF. The Collaborative is a three-year project and meetings are expected to be held quarterly. [Watch a new video](#), produced by California Forward, which provides a summary of the first meeting.

### **New SRI study examines early implementation of LCFF**

*Findings presented at recent PACE seminar in Sacramento*

How are school districts using their new budget flexibility in the early implementation phase of the LCFF? What opportunities and challenges in the process do they foresee? What can state policymakers learn from these early experiences? Twelve independent researchers set out to answer these questions in a study conducted between June and October of 2014. Their findings are summarized in a new [research brief](#) by [SRI International](#), titled *Toward a Grand Vision: Early Implementation of California's Local Control Funding Formula*. The authors presented the findings at a Nov. 7 seminar hosted by Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE), which CSBA, ACSA, CTA and other education stakeholders attended. The brief includes data from the authors' review of LCAPs and other LCFF-related documents, plus interviews with more than 70 officials from 10 districts and 20 county offices of education, including superintendents, school board members, district staff and parents. The study concludes that stakeholders strongly support LCFF funding and are cautiously optimistic about the future of the law. Interviewees report that the LCFF has encouraged new forms of budgeting, with some districts beginning to move from a categorical mindset to a needs-based one. In addition, some districts are closely examining outcomes in order to better distribute available resources and advance learning for targeted student populations.

## **\$250 million available in Career Pathways Trust grants** *School districts invited to apply by Feb. 6, 2015*

In a second round of funding, school districts and community colleges are invited to apply for \$250 million in California Career Pathways Trust grants, **announced** State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson last week. The grants pay for programs that provide students with the skills, practical experience and preparation needed to succeed in college and careers. The programs not only give students “a taste of the working world before they graduate,” said Torlakson, but also “motivate and excite students, reduce the drop-out rate and increase the college attendance rate.” The grants will be available for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 fiscal years. A grant application **webinar** is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 19, from 1-4 p.m. Visit the CDE’s website for grant **application forms** and more information. Applications are due by Feb. 6, 2015.

## **SI&A named a Top 20 Most Promising Education Technology Provider for 2014** *Company’s software builds stronger parent and school site connections*

Jeff Williams, founder and chief executive officer of School Innovations & Achievement (SI&A), a technology and services company serving students and school districts, believes in addressing absences as soon as they occur. SI&A’s Attention to Attendance (A2A) makes attendance data management easier and catches absences as they happen. Glendale Unified school District has had a lot of success using A2A. A2A tracked student absences and created automated letters that were then mailed home to parents and guardians. It also generated attendance reports for schools that needed follow-up conference with targeted students. Those students and their parents would meet with a school administrator or counselor. Also, California Attorney General Kamala Harris based her 2013 Elementary School Truancy and Absenteeism Crisis report on A2A data. A2A has received three major education/technology awards for being a leader in education technology services. Most recently, CIO Review magazine named SI&A a Top 20 Most Promising Education Technology Provider for 2014. To learn more about SI&A, a trusted CSBA business partner since 2008, **read the cover story** in CIO Review’s October 2014 issue. For additional information on A2A and other technology solutions, visit **SI&A’s website**.

## **Events, Training and Opportunities**

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## **Register for AEC today to save \$70** *Rate increases on Nov. 13*

Regular registration for CSBA’s 2014 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show ends today – Wednesday, Nov. 12 – and the rate increases tomorrow, so be sure to **secure your spot** to take advantage of the savings. If you haven’t booked a place to stay, please check the **housing registration** page on CSBA’s website for current hotel inventory. AEC takes place Dec. 14-16 at the Moscone Center in San Francisco. Through the General Sessions, Workshops and Critical Issues, and on the trade show floor, the event offers

opportunities to learn about key education issues, hear district best practices, share successes and network with governance leaders throughout California. CSBA looks forward to seeing you in San Francisco!

### **Call for nominations for Delegate Assembly** **Submit nominations by Jan. 7, 2015**

Local boards in CSBA's 21 regions will participate in the 2015 Delegate Assembly elections between Feb. 1 and March 16. Elected individuals serve two-year terms, from April 1, 2015, through March 31, 2017. Any CSBA member board is eligible to nominate board members within its geographical region or subregion and may nominate as many individuals as it chooses. A nomination form and a candidate biographical sketch form must be submitted to the CSBA Leadership Services department. Nominees may also submit an optional one-page, one-sided resume, but it cannot be substituted for the biographical sketch form. All materials must be postmarked no later than Jan. 7, 2015. Visit CSBA's website for [forms and more information](#), including a list of delegates whose terms are expiring in 2015 and a memo from CSBA President Jospehine Lucey.

## **Member Services**

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### **More energy. For a better education.**

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